

Claims

1. A method of applying adhesive labels (42) to product containers (16) comprising using a single layer web (36) on which the labels are printed at spaced intervals, on a first surface, and the label boundaries are defined in the web by lines of cutting (40) passing through the web leaving the so defined labels (42) connected to the remainder of the web (36) by catch points (44), and wherein to remove the labels (42) the web is fed around a guide (32), of the same function and operation as the conventional beak of conventional applicator machinery, which causes the leading edge (42A) of each label to protrude out of the plane of the web (36) and the protruding edge (42A) forms a means whereby the remainder of the label (42) can be extracted from the web (36) by the breaking of the catch points (44), to allow the adhesive on a second surface opposing the first surface of the labels to contact and adhere to the product container such that relative movement causes the release of the label from the web and the remainder material comprises only that of the single web.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the leading edge (42A) of each label (42) is sufficiently devoid of catch points (44) to ensure that it will reliably protrude from the web (36) when it first passes round the guide (32).

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the labels (42) are of the self adhesive type.

4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein there is a water application station to wet the adhesive to make it effective before application of the labels (42) to the containers (16).

5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the adhesive is applied immediately before the web (36) passes round the guide (32).
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the said first surface has silicon applied over the printing to act as a release material.
7. A coil of a single layer web for use in the method according to any preceding claim, said web having a series of labels defined in a web (36) by cuts (40) leaving catch points (44) connecting the labels (42) to the remainder of the web (36) said web having a first surface to which printing and silicone are applied and a second, opposing surface to which adhesive is applied.